

Church and Community Fund provides vital support to Church Communities

The Church and Community Fund awarded 123 grants last year. All CCF grants seek to take the church out into the community, bring the community into the church and strengthen the relationship between the two. Founded shortly after the First World War, the CCF is part of the Archbishops' Council and awards more than £550,000 in grants to parish projects every year. Principally, CCF grants pay the salaries of community workers or go towards the cost of adapting Church buildings so that they can be better used by the community.

The Fund's recently published *Annual Review* describes some of the projects supported last year. The CCF gave £2,000 to St Nicholas, Great Hornead towards providing facilities for the rural community. The Rt. Revd Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St. Albans said 'I am sure that, in the future, it will be important for church buildings to combine a sense of the sacred with facilities for welcome and education. The design of St. Nicholas sets out to do just that.'

£3,500 went to support 7 churches that joined together to form the Camden and City Cold Weather Shelter which provides emergency accommodation in North London. The CCF also gave £5,000 to St John's Izmir, Turkey in the Diocese of Europe to renovate a church hall so it could become a cultural centre. Other grants helped to run a Christian activity centre, and to provide a Community Worker specifically employed to teach the local people new skills.

The CCF has expanded its work significantly over the last couple of years. Thanks to some generous legacies, the CCF has expanded its work significantly over the last couple of years. In 2007 it was able to award a record £586,105. It also gives an annual grant of £300,000 to the Archbishops' Council in support of the national work of the Church. CCF changed its name in 2006 from the Central Church Fund to better reflect the work that it does.

'It is our loyalty to the breadth of the Church's mission that marks us out.' says the Chairman of the CCF, the Ven. George Howe. 'Whilst we favour those with the least financial resources of their own, that exceeds across any urban-rural divide, and assists our mission through building, employment and social outreach programmes helping a wide range of groups – young and elderly, tourists, asylum seekers, to name but a few.'

A copy of the CCF's *Annual Review 2007* as well as details of how to apply for a grant or make a legacy or donation to the CCF are available from the Secretary to the CCF at Church House, Great Smith St, London SW1P 3AZ, or at www.churchandcommunityfund.org.uk.

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